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PROGRAM Senator Goldwater Commentary STATION WRC Radio

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SUBJECT Freedom of Information Act

KEN ALVORD: You know, freedom of information up there on Capitol Hill. And the Administration, of course, seeking some changes in it, seeking to tighten it, in the name of security, and also in the name of what they call effective government. The House is balking a little bit at it, or at least one of the key members of the House.

What would you do? How do we redust this law?

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER: Well, it does need some re-adjustment. Let's look at one fact. The FBI has 500 people, costing \$9 million a year, just digging up freedom-of-information facts on anybody. You can get access to this freedom-of-information and find out almost anything you want to know, and in some cases more than you want to know, about any individual on file. And that's darn near everybody in the country.

Now, I think that the Freedom of Information Act went too far. It's all right to allow law officers, people like that, access to information contained in the computers of the FBI. But to allow anybody to walk in there and get anything they want, I just can't buy that. I think what we do in our private lives is our own private business, except when it might affect, illegally, somebody else.

ALVORD: Senator, what about passing on the cost of such things? It's suggested that we do spend some millions of dollars a year answering these requests.

SENATOR GOLDWATER: Oh, we do. And \$9 million just in one agency, the FBI. And when you take a look at the FBI files, which I have seen, they just cover floor after floor after